

#E1-685
RL

Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit
1925 K Street NW
Washington, DC 20423-0001
Attn: Rini Ghosh

February 21, 2004

RE:STB Finance Docket No. 34284



Dear Ms. Ghosh:

The construction and operation of a single track rail-line to connect proposed Vulcan Construction Materials limestone quarry in Quihi to the Union Pacific Railroad near Dunlay, as referenced, should be studied in the Environmental Impact Statement, and should include whether it is determined that no quarry and no rail line be constructed at all. The rail line and the quarry proposed are connected actions and not independent and must be considered in the same EIS.

Farming and ranching currently occur on and around the seven miles of proposed industrial site, with many of the farms being in the Texas Dept. of Agriculture's Family Land Heritage Program (over 100 years of continuous agricultural operation by the same family). There are homes and buildings in the area that are listed with the Texas Historical Commission. Study the impact of how industry would change the area aesthetically, i.e. what will happen to the land after it is mined?

Study the present condition of surrounding wells. As happened in other places, wells and septic tanks have been damaged by blasting in quarries. Septic tanks have actually polluted wells when blasting damaged their structures. EIS study the effect of loss of water wells, and how these families would get water. EIS should study what will happen to the Edwards Aquifer water quality when Vulcan mines to a depth of 200-250 feet.

EIS should include a full study on the effect that blasting will have to Medina Dam which is just northeast of proposed site. The Balcones Fault Line is a potential disaster. Request a specific EIS study of fuel storage just south of CR 353 over the Edwards Aquifer Recharge zone. Diesel fuel storage is prohibited over the aquifer according to EAA rules.

Request a full flood analysis on ALL proposed and alternate routes of the rail line and quarry site as well including avoidance of debris clogging the trestles during flooding. Watersheds will be altered. EIS to include a study on the control of weeds and other vegetation along the tracks, and the effects of pesticides used for control upon wetlands and other pools of water and streams in the area.

EIS should include a complete study on the times and duration of rail traffic across any and all roads without grade separation, the effect of delays, derailment, frequency, probability of accidents, stopping distances, noise levels, and vibration, spills of chemicals and diesel fuels, or other hazardous materials being transported.

A proposed rail line will route through Indian Mounds which Quihi is proud to claim as a cultural resource of the area. The EIS should include a full study of the effect each route would have on aesthetics of the historic district and the archeological artifacts of Quihi. As a concerned landowner and descendant, I respectfully request your help to ensure the Vulcan Materials proposed quarry and the Southwest Gulf Railroad proposed rail line do not harm the environment, the water quality, or the historic quality of the local area.

Sincerely, Joyce M. Landrum, P. O. 145, Hondo TX

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Joyce M. Landrum'.

cc: The Honorable Henry Bonilla
U. S. Representative, Dist. 23
11120 Wurzbach, Suite 23
San Antonio, TX 78230
Texas Senator Frank Madla
1313 S.E. Military Drive, Suite 101
San Antonio, TX 78214
Medina County Judge
Jim Barden
1100 16th St. Room 101
Hondo, TX 78861